

S P R I N G / S U M M E R 2 0 1 1

Visions and Views

NILA – The Nebraska International Languages Association

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Spring is finally here!

After a long cold winter, spring in Nebraska has finally arrived. This spring has been a typically busy one for all of us in world language education. From the 2011 Central States Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages to the State German Students' Convention, NILA members have been actively promoting language education in the State of Nebraska.

Save the Date!

NILA Conference

October 14-15

Creighton University

Keynote: Lisa Lilley

ACTFL Convention

November 18-20

Colorado Convention Center,
Denver, CO

Keynote: Dr. Milton Chen

CSCTFL

March 8-10, 2012

Hyatt Regency Milwaukee,
Milwaukee, WI

CSCTFL 2011

Summary

This year's CSCTFL was held in Indianapolis, Indiana March 3-5. The theme of this year's conference was *All Aboard the 21st Century Express!*; conference sessions highlighted innovations in language teaching methodology and instructional technology that are propelling the profession through the 21st century.

Keynote: Dr. Yong Zhao

Dr. Yong Zhao delivered a rousing keynote speech based primarily on his book *Catching Up or Leading the Way*. The address focused on the effect that globalization and technology have had on the educational policy and reality in the United States. Dr. Zhao noted that due to these changes that tomorrow's workforce will need to find and fill a need by inventing a job; thus, our students will need the critical thinking skills, the intercultural sensitivity, the creativity, and the flexibility to survive and to succeed in our increasingly global economy.

Extension Workshop

The CSCTFL Conference Workshop/Extension Workshop focused on the development and implementation of standards-based performance assessments. The workshop leaders Shelli Brown, Greta Lundgaard and Greg Shields, presented information based on their own district-wide assessments in Plano ISD, Plano, Texas. Specifically, they discussed the rationale for using performance assessments, how to use and develop performance assessments, and how to evaluate and provide feedback on students' completed assessments.



NATs

NAATF

The Nebraska Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of French sponsored a unique immersion experience, *L'Auberge de Jeunesse*, over the weekend of February 26 & 27. Eighty-three students, ten teachers and four volunteers from the Omaha-Lincoln area participated in the twenty-four hour event held at Camp Carol Joy Holling in Ashland, NE. During the twenty-four hours, students were encouraged to speak French exclusively. Evaluations submitted by students and teachers alike were glowing with many students reporting that this had been the most fun they had *ever* had at a school-sponsored event.



NATSP

The NATSP is pleased to announce a new coordinator for the National Spanish Exam, Candida Kraska of Millard West High School. In addition to this announcement, look for future information on the fall immersion workshop. Planning is already underway!

NATG

It has been another busy spring for the NATG. Among other events, on March 26th the NATG sponsored the 2011 State German Students' Convention held at Platteview High School. Fifteen schools and almost 300 German



students were registered for the day's events, which included competitions and seminars. The theme for this year's convention was "Märchenwelt", focusing on German fairy tales. All the seminars run by the attending schools related to the theme for the day. Look for a full list of winners to be posted on NATG's website.



2011 NILA Conference

21st Century Language Teaching: Beyond Borders

The theme of the 2011 NILA conference focuses on the blurring of borders we are currently experiencing through the phenomenon of globalization. As a result of this process, our students will need both the communicative competence and the intercultural sensitivity to be able to compete in our global economy. Therefore, we are looking for proposals that focus on 21st Century Skills. The conference will be held October 14 – 15 at Creighton University in Omaha and will feature a keynote presentation from ACTFL's 2010 National Teacher of the Year, Lisa Lilley.



Call for Proposals

We are currently accepting proposals for NILA's annual fall conference.

Conference sessions can be either 25 or 50-minutes long and should relate to this year's conference theme. The submission deadline is fast approaching, so don't miss this opportunity to share your expertise with your fellow NILA members!

Poster Sessions

In addition to the traditional presentations, this year NILA is also accepting proposals for poster sessions. Poster presentations provide conference participants an opportunity to quickly and easily become acquainted with your topic. The submission deadline for both poster and traditional sessions is **May 27th**. For more information and for the conference proposal form, please see the NILA website, or visit us on facebook or twitter.



Advocacy

H.R. 6036 the Excellence and Innovation in Language Learning Act needs your help! The goal of this piece of legislation is to encourage excellence, innovation and reform in K-12 programs and policies nation-wide; to provide every K-12 student the access to high-quality, well-articulated world language education; and to improve the recruitment of quality language teachers and support the professional development of current language teaching professionals. H.R. 6036 also specifies certain national and state activities as well as encourages partnerships that support the articulation of foreign language learning from kindergarten through 12th grade. For more information on this legislation and for steps on how to contact your congressman, please see ACTFL's website:

<http://www.actfl.org/i4a/headlines/headlinedetails.cfm?id=299>

Make your voice count!

